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Southam Rural District

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1959

BY

D. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts

Leamington Spa

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1960

38, HOLLY WALK,
LEAMINGTON SPA.
23rd September, 1960.

To the Southam Rural District Council

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1959.

There has been a slight drop in population and both birth and death rates are lower than those for 1958.

The large number of schemes and projects which have been in hand over the past two years have made heavy demands upon the time of the Surveyor and his staff. For this reason the reports for 1958 and 1959 have been somewhat compressed and altered in form. Thus for these years Mr. Whitehead has not submitted a separate detailed report but has of course supplied much of the figures and material which have been taken into the body of the two reports.

Further action became possible in respect of sewerage schemes held up by financial restrictions and ministerial approval was obtained to proceed at Fenny Compton, Gaydon, Farnborough, Ratley, Warmington, Avon Dassett and Radway. The Council decided to give priority to the first-named pair on this list and in addition to proceed with the second stage of the works at Long Itchington and the enlargement and modernisation of the Southam Sewage Works.

Your officers and the appropriate sub-committee made numerous inspections of unfit house property, notably at Bishops Itchington, Napton and Harbury.

An amended scheme was prepared for boosting water main pressures in Southam with provision therein for possible future requirements of light industry. Late in the year agreement was reached with eight other local authorities to unite for the purpose of forming a joint water board. Instruments for collection of air pollution data were again operated. An acknowledgment and thanks are due to the staff and scholars of Southam High School for operating a daily smoke filter and to the Caretaker for his assistance therewith during school holidays.

A good deal of work has been accomplished by the health department this year and again I have had every

assistance possible from the Surveyor and other fellow officers. It is a pleasure to acknowledge the good relationship which has existed and to thank the Council for its support and interest at all times.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

D. LIVINGSTONE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Southam Rural District.

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1959

	1959
Population (estimated) Mid-year	15,970
Area	62,527 acres
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Crude)	14.8
" " " " (corrected)	17.9
Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 total births	24.8
Death Rate per 1,000 population (Crude)	9.0
" " " " (corrected)	11.5
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—	
All Infants per 1,000 live births	16.9
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	17.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	—

There was a fall of 200 in population in 1959.

No deaths occurred from diseases or accidents of pregnancy and childbirth, from infantile diarrhoea or from common infectious diseases.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

1. (a) Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

S. C. WHITEHEAD, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

G. S. H. PEATY, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector.

P. C. DAWSON, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

2. (a) Laboratory Facilities.—No special bacteriological examinations were carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Coventry, during 1959, but many routine specimens were sent.

A large number of water analyses were undertaken in 1959, in order to elucidate the source of foreign matter causing unsatisfactory water samples from the Harbury reservoir.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

1.—*Water Supply (1959).*

It has already been reported that steps were taken to boost the mains pressure in the higher parts of Southam having in mind the need to improve the supply (a) for proposed new housing developments, (b) for the probable needs of light industry.

A substantial number of samples were taken in order to trace the point in the Northern Area System where some organic pollution was making its entry. In the course of this the Harbury Tower was drained and some sludge deposit removed by hand labour as thoroughly as the construction allowed. After this, results of sampling were still not entirely satisfactory from the bacteriological angle and it was discovered that the roof over the tower was not effectively proof against the entry of birds. The matter was reported to the engineers with a view to remedial action. As a further precaution the Deputy Surveyor examined the mains between Leamington and Harbury and a minor valve fault was rectified. Samples were henceforth quite satisfactory. The pollution was at no time serious or dangerous to health and the incident served to show how sensitive an indicator are the bacteriological methods.

The C.A.D. Kineton requested this Council to provide 30,000 gallons of water daily to augment their existing supply. Provision had not been made in the original design data for such a commitment. Therefore the best offer which the Council could make was for the supply of 20,000 gallons a day to be drawn off only between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL (1959)

Long Itchington.—Approval was given to the second stage of the proposed work by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Southam.—An investigation was made on 26th May, 1959 by an Inspector who complimented Col. Nicol representing Messrs. H. M. Bateman and Partners, upon the clear presentation of the Council's proposals to reconstruct and enlarge the Southam Sewage Works. It is apparent that the river has become seriously obstructed by silt, sludge and fallen trees and that it would be a costly matter to restore a free flow. The Minister approved the proposed scheme

expressing concern (shared by the Council) at the high content —up to 1/3rd of D.W.F.—of soil drainage water in the total effluent reaching the works.

Stockton.—The work had reached an advanced stage by the summer of 1959 but bad weather delayed completion beyond 30th June, the contract date. In view of the extra sewer laying to be undertaken, it will be required to separate foul drainage from storm water to the fullest extent possible.

Lighthorne.—Representations have been made by parishioners to the Member of Parliament at the lack of an approved scheme to sewer and drain this village. The earlier scheme did not go forward on account of the high costs per unit to be connected. An examination was later made into the possibility of drafting a cheaper scheme.

Other parishes.—The Council had previously decided to press on with the schemes for Priors Marston and Shotteswell in view of the serious nuisance at both places. It became possible to add Fenny Compton and Gaydon to the list later in 1959. At Gaydon your officers met a landowner and representatives of the N.F.U. and County Council regarding difficulties arising upon farm land through pollution of a watercourse by effluent from an old village drain. The Council was able to accept neither liability for clearing out portions of this watercourse nor suggestions that the Council House sewage disposal unit was responsible for some of the conditions noted. The Council however firmly resolved to press forward the only effective remedy, i.e. main drainage for the village, at the earliest possible moment.

D. HOUSING (1959)

The tempo of the slum clearance programme quickened during 1959. Four clearance areas in Bishops Itchington were declared in respect of 14 houses and the orders were submitted to the Ministry for confirmation. Thirty-five houses were also represented as "individual unfit" houses in various parishes; special attention was given by the sub-committee to visits to scheduled houses in Napton.

Number of persons displaced from property subject to action under the Housing Act	159
Number of families	47
Number of Houses demolished ...	9
Number of Houses closed ...	7

Most of the persons displaced were from Long Itchington clearance areas. One difficulty arose in that a person remained in occupation after the date fixed for vacation of a house in one of these clearance areas and refused upon alleged medical grounds to accept the alternative accommodation offered by the Council. After due enquiry the matters alleged were not substantiated by the facts and the person was warned that statutory action would be taken as laid down in the Housing Act if he did not vacate the property. The person then accepted the tenancy offered and the matter was satisfactorily concluded with the aid of the County Welfare and domestic help services. Another problem arose in regard to unsatisfactory conditions for children at an unlicensed caravan near Long Itchington. This was solved by the Council's generosity in housing a problem family with only very short residential qualifications in the rural district.

E. FOOD AND DRUGS

No prosecutions were taken for any offence in connection with the Food and Drugs Act or the Food Hygiene Regulations. Mr. Dawson made many inspections in regard to food shops in addition to maintaining 100% inspection of carcase meat slaughtered within your district.

An application was made by a food trader to use shop premises for the handling and sale of meat without undertaking the works necessary to instal a wholesome supply of water or to provide satisfactory drainage. As both main water and drainage exist in the parish concerned this proposal betrayed a notable disdain for the spirit and letter of the Food Hygiene Regulations. One is glad to record that the Council refused to accede to the request.

Support was given by the Council to a resolution submitted by the Rural District Council's Association asking for 100% inspection of meat to be made obligatory and for some control of the hours for slaughtering to be imposed.

On several occasions action was taken in regard to the sale of milk within your district derived from a herd where the presence of Brucella Abortus infection had been established by laboratory tests of the milk. One of these gave rise to an unusual situation. On June 13th, 1959 a notice was given by the Medical Officer of Health under Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1959 prohibiting the sale by retail within your district of milk produced in another county. A similar order was made by the Medical Officer to the Borough

of Rugby regarding the same milk, but no restriction was imposed within the Rugby rural district. On June 18th, 1959 a sale was proved to have been made of the milk concerned by the roundsman to an officer of the Food and Drugs Authority at Long Itchington. After hearing the report of the Medical Officer the Council authorised legal proceedings to be taken against the producer-retailer concerned whose registered premises were, as stated, not in Warwickshire. It was contended in explanation that the milk had been on the vehicle solely for the purpose of being sold in the Rugby rural district, where no stop order was in force, and that the roundsman concerned had received strict verbal instructions not to sell this milk in either of the districts where orders were in force prohibiting its sale.

A solicitor was instructed on behalf of this Council and his advice was that the sale made to an authorised sampling officer was a valid sale. Nevertheless, a defence might be entered that the roundsman did not intend to sell this milk to members of the public and only did so to this officer, known to him, apprehending that refusal to do so might be construed as obstruction of that officer in the course of his duties to sample milk although no reference was made at the time to the stop order in force. Accordingly the Council decided not to proceed further with the legal proceedings contemplated and to rescind its previous resolution in this matter. Meanwhile, clear samples had been obtained and the order had been cancelled as provided by the regulations.

MEAT INSPECTION.

YEAR 1959

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	126	None	1	862	293	None
Number inspected ...	126	None	1	862	293	None
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i> ... Whole carcases condemned	None	None	None	None	None	None
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	29	None	None	47	11	None
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	23%	None	None	5.5%	3.8%	None
<i>Tuberculosis only</i> : Whole carcases condemned	1	None	None	None	None	None
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	None	None	None	6	None
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	5.6%	None	None	None	2.1%	None
<i>Cysticercosis</i> : Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	None	None	None	None	None	None
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	None	None	None	None	None	None
Generalised and totally condemned	None	None	None	None	None	None

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1952

In 1959 the experience in regard to infectious disease was satisfactory and calls for no comment. However information was received of local outbreaks of diarrhoea. A number of samples were taken without any light being thrown on the cause. Diphtheria immunization continues to be accepted by the great majority of parents and is coupled with a vaccine against whooping cough. The freedom of the district from both diseases was again encouraging and one wishes that parents would show equal concern for smallpox vaccination. Air travel has opened up new and dangerous avenues of access to our community for this serious, disfiguring and often fatal disease. Prejudice or postponement of the safe vaccination procedure are therefore indulgences which can ill be afforded.

Diphtheria Immunization.

	Numbers immunized for the first time		Booster Doses only
	School Age	Under 5 years	
1958	29	236	198
1959	6	209	121

This represents a satisfactory protection level.

Whooping Cough.—206 children received prophylactic injections in 1959 so that the majority were protected against this disease and Diphtheria at the same time.

TUBERCULOSIS, 1959

Age Periods	New Cases				Transfers into District				Deaths			
	Pul- mono- nary		Non- Pul.		Pul- mono- nary		Non- Pul.		Pul- mono- nary		Non- Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	1	1	1	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	3	3	1	1	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	—

Tuberculosis.—The following table shows the notified cases and deaths during the past 21 years:—

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Cases	... 12	6	14	15	9	14	10
Deaths	... 7	8	3	3	7	4	7
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Cases	... 11	18	20	19	12	15	12
Deaths	... 6	6	3	6	6	1	1
	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Cases	... 22	20	21	20	13	7	13
Deaths	... 1	2	1	2	—	—	1

2 patients were admitted to Sanatorium during 1959 and 4 were discharged.

15 persons received B.C.G. vaccine inoculation during 1959.

Mass Radiography.—The Medical Director's report is reproduced below giving attendances etc. at Public surveys conducted by the Coventry Unit in the parishes concerned during the months of August and September, 1959.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEYS

Long Itchington, Fenny Compton, Stockton and Harbury Cement Works

Miniature X-Ray Examination :		Male	Female	Total
Long Itchington ...	...	67	77	144
Fenny Compton ...	...	39	53	92
Stockton ...	...	76	101	177
Harbury Cement Works	...	166	7	173
		—	—	—
		348	238	586
		—	—	—

Recalled for large films :

Long Itchington ...	...	4	3	7
Fenny Compton ...	...	2	3	5
Stockton ...	...	4	—	4
Harbury Cement Works	...	8	—	8
		—	—	—
		18	6	24
		—	—	—

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEYS—cont.

Results of large films :		Male	Female	Total
Long Itchington :				
(a) No abnormality	...	3	—	3
(b) Minor abnormalities requiring no further action	...	1	2	3
(c) Referred to own doctor—Inactive pulmonary tuberculosis	...	—	1	1
	—	4	3	7
	—	—	—	—
Fenny Compton :				
(a) No abnormality	...	1	2	3
(b) Referred to own doctor—inflammatory lesion	...	—	1	1
(c) Referred to Chest Clinic—suspected active pulmonary tuberculosis	...	1	—	1
	—	2	3	5
	—	—	—	—

Stockton :

(a) No abnormality	...	...	1	—	1
(b) Minor abnormality requiring no further action	...	...	1	—	1
(c) Referred to own doctor—Emphysema—Cardiac abnormality	...	...	1	—	1
			—	—	—
			4	—	4
			—	—	—

Harbury Cement Works :

(a) No abnormality	...	...	3	—	3
(b) Minor abnormality requiring no further action	...	...	3	—	3
(c) Referred to Chest Clinic—Pulmonary tuberculosis—probably inactive	...	...	1	—	1
(d) Unable to attend for large film—own doctor requested to make arrangements for this at Chest Clinic	...	1	—	—	1
		—	—	—	—
		8	—	—	8
		—	—	—	—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955, SECTION 31

During 1959 the County Council's sampling officers took 34 samples of Tuberculin Tested milk and 61 samples of ungraded milk for biological examination. No positive was obtained from the latter group.

I am indebted to Dr. S. W. Savage, County Medical Officer, for this information.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No cases were reported during 1959 which required action under Section 47 of this Act.

**ANNUAL REPORT
SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Following are number of plans submitted to Southam Rural District Council for the year 1959 :—

1.	New Houses ...	...	...	...	...	64
2.	Conversion to Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	6
3.	Alteration to Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	27
4.	Extensions to Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	2
5.	New Bathrooms, W.C.'s and drainage	...	...	...	...	76
6.	Garages and Vehicular accesses	...	...	...	...	76
7.	Agricultural Buildings	...	...	...	...	19
8.	Sheds and Pavilions	...	...	...	...	3
9.	Sub Stations	...	...	...	...	—
10.	Retention of temporary buildings	...	...	...	...	32
11.	Sites for Development	...	...	...	...	52
12.	Change of use	...	...	...	...	7
13.	Business Premises	...	...	...	...	13
14.	Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	20
15.	Petrol Filling Stations	...	...	...	...	4

S. C. WHITEHEAD,
Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

TABLE I.

SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT DURING YEAR 1959.

		Inspections & Observa- tions made	Notices Served		Nuisances abated after notice
			Statutory	Informal	
Dwelling Houses and Schools		358	2	5	4
Overcrowding ...	...	3	—	—	—
Verminous Houses	...	7	—	1	1
Dust Nuisances	...	7	—	—	—
Milkshops and Dairies ...	...	9	—	—	—
Bakehouses ...	...	14	—	1	1
Slaughterhouses	...	21	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies	...	46	—	—	—
Deposits of Refuse and Manure		22	—	4	3
Closets ...	...	189	—	142	46
Ice Cream	...	18	—	—	—
House Drainage	...	212	—	9	7
Pigsties ...	...	11	—	1	—
Smoke Nuisance	...	4	—	—	1
Factories and workshops	...	21	—	1	1
Food Shops	...	92	—	1	1
Rat and Mice Infestations	...	280	—	—	—
Dustbins...	...	32	—	2	2
Outworkers' Premises	...	—	—	—	—
Sheds, Garages, etc.	...	42	—	—	—
Cafes ...	...	24	—	—	—
Mobile Food Vans	...	13	—	—	—
Infectious Disease	...	12	—	—	—
Unsound Food ...	...	11	—	—	—
Water Supply ...	...	172	—	—	—
Complaints	...	422	—	—	—
Caravans	...	54	—	1	1
Canteens...	...	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	2097	2	168	68

TABLE II.

SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1959
AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.	At all Ages.		
		Number.	Gross Rate.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1950	13,870	214	16.6	7	32.7	158	12.3
1951	12,700	226	17.8	6	26.5	138	10.9
1952	12,550	202	16.1	3	29.7	121	9.6
1953	13,050	254	19.4	8	31.5	123	9.4
1954	13,310	223	16.7	11	49.3	141	10.6
1955	14,470	222	15.7	5	22.5	138	9.1
1956	15,180	248	16.4	2	8.1	146	9.6
1957	15,570	298	19.1	3	10.0	125	8.0
1958	16,170	252	20.2	6	23.8	150	11.8
1959	15,970	236	14.8	4	16.9	144	9.0

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1959.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1959.

(Provisional Figures).

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

	Live Births.	Still Births per 1,000 Births.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.	
			Deaths. 1,000 Births.	Deaths. 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	16.5	20.9
			11.6	22.2

TABLE III.

SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING
THE YEAR 1959.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all Ages.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox
Plague
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)
Erysipelas
Scarlet Fever	12	6	6	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever
Enteric Fever
Pneumonia	5	...	2	2	1	...	...	...
Malaria
Dysentery
Puerperal Pyrexia
Meningococcal Infection
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)
Whooping Cough	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica
Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Measles	...	143	1	98	29	15	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	6	...	...	...	5	1	...	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Food Poisoning
Totals	...	169	1	104	36	17	9	2	...	...

TABLE IV.
SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1959.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—
2 Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3 Syphilitic disease...	—	—
4 Diphtheria	—	—
5 Whooping cough	—	—
6 Meningococcal infections	—	—
7 Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8 Measles	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	5
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung ,bronchus ...	7	—
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	5
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
16 Diabetes	1	—
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	8	9
18 Coronary disease, angina	7	5
19 Hypertension with heart disease ...	2	2
20 Other heart disease	14	15
21 Other circulatory disease	4	—
22 Influenza	7	1
23 Pneumonia	5	2
24 Bronchitis...	5	—
25 Other disease of respiratory system ...	3	1
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	1
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—
31 Congenital malformations	3	5
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	—
33 Motor vehicle accidents	4	—
34 All other accidents	3	1
35 Suicide	—	1
36 Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—
All causes	88	56

